

Language Arts SIA – Patchwork: *This I believe*

Ren Yi Ping (19) 307

Born as an African American in the twentieth century, Obama lived in an unfair world of racial discrimination. However, he has now become the first African American president of the United States of America. Unlike his industriousness, my parents had to constantly remind me to switch off my computer and study. At first, I loathed their nagging, but as time passed by, I realised that if I wanted to be as successful as President Obama, I have to depend on not my parents but myself. I control my own actions, and I control my own future. If I want to lead a successful life, I needed to depend on myself. This is how I came to my belief.

Once said by Zig Ziglar, a motivational speaker, “It’s not what happens to you that determines how far you will go in life; it is how you handle what happens to you.” Having taught me that in order for success, I cannot wait for opportunities to come, but rather find opportunities to excel myself, this sentence has brought a lot of motivation to me when I lose my direction in life.

There are many factors that caused me to believe in this quote, such as my personal experiences and influence from biographies of famous politicians that illustrate their road to success. A major factor was my migration to Singapore, as I had to learn a new language all of a sudden. It was a huge struggle for me, but eventually, my hard work paid off. Now, a wider variety of opportunities are available for me than if I were in China. Because of this decision I had made for myself, my life took a huge change for the better.

Dancing had also contributed to how I had learnt my lesson of not to depend on others. I took up dance due to my great interest in the arts. However, when I was six, I stopped attending dance lessons due to my parents’ suggestion of concentrating on my studies instead. At that time, I followed my parents’ wishes without a second thought, as I considered myself to be too young to make a decision for myself. My learning of dance hence came to a halt. Till now, I regret that decision. From here, you can see how I lost my skill of dance because of my inability to depend on myself to choose a decision.

There are many ways in which my belief can be reflected on the various ups and downs in life. In my opinion, my belief applies to not only me, but everyone else as well. Thus, the next time you begin to complain about how life is unfair, why not try to view your situation from a different perspective and ponder over how to improve it instead? After all, your life is in your own hands, and you are the only one who can change it. This I believe.

(487 words)